From: Jay Roelof
To: JWMCC Exhibits
Subject: SB 5505 - OCCC Workforce Education and Resiliency Center
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 10:48:36 PM

May 10, 2017

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

From: Jay T. Roelof, Outreach Chair – Lincoln City Congregational Church

Submitted to: jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re **SB 5505** In support of: Oregon Coast Community College, Lincoln County Oregon, Workforce Education and Resiliency Center, $8 million Article XI-G State Bonding (to be matched dollar for dollar by local resources).

Dear Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

As an active representative of my church, I serve in various capacities with several local community not-for-profits. I am also active as an advocate for education, living wage jobs and affordable housing for the disadvantaged in general - and am presently involved in creating a dedicated emergency warming shelter for Lincoln County's homeless as a life saving measure.

I am very familiar with the challenges that clients of the following local not-for-profit agencies face: My Sister's Place, Samaritan House, Family Promise, Homeless Education Literacy Project (HELP), Neighbors for Kids ("Kids Zone"), Lincoln City Warming Shelter, Lincoln City Food Pantry, St. James Community Meals program, Oceana Family Literacy program, Habitat for Humanity, and others.

The Oregon Coast Community College's planned new Workforce Education and Resiliency Center at their Newport campus will be a benefit to all of the community agencies I advocate for – either directly or indirectly. As clients of these community services become more self-sufficient, they look to organizations like Oregon Coast Community College to leverage their ability to give back to the community as they work their way into a productive role that is both beneficial to Lincoln County as well as to the individual clients.

OCCC's new Workforce Education building will help to address critical workforce gaps in Lincoln County and the surrounding region. Envisioned career focused education programs for this new facility align well with Lincoln County workforce gaps in living wage jobs essential to the economic

and civic vitality of our region. These programs include Emergency Preparation & Management; Maritime Technicians; Applied Technology (Trades); and Teacher Education.

As a qualified CERT member, I and my fellow local residents who have received this training strongly support the secondary role of the building, to serve as a resiliency and recovery center for Lincoln County south of the Yaquina bridge in the event of a catastrophic event. The building itself, along with the trained professionals and students that may be at the college at the time of an event, could be essential in immediate and longer term recovery. This is the type of visionary and collaborative thinking envisioned in the Oregon Resilience Plan (2013), which states *planning for reconstruction and recovery must be done now to provide a strategic vision for restoring the economy and livability of the Oregon coast.*

Sincerely,

Jay T. Roelof – Founding Board Member and Vice President, Lincoln City Warming Shelter